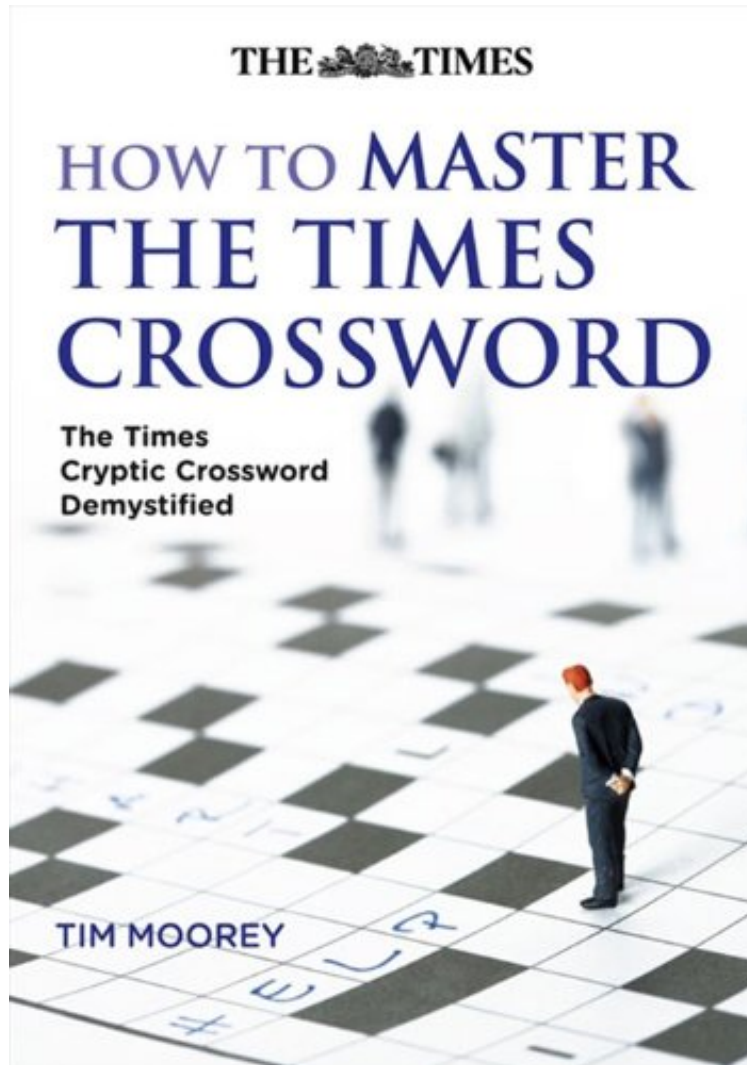


# How to Master The Times Crossword: The Times Cryptic Crossword Demystified

Tim Moorey

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**Tim Moorey : How to Master The Times Crossword: The Times Cryptic Crossword Demystified** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised How to Master The Times Crossword: The Times Cryptic Crossword Demystified:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. So helpful and funBy MaerchThis book is the perfect manual for learning how to solve cryptic crosswords. It is just what I wanted. Can't wait to solve my first puzzle.5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. The best book for the job - or our Amy ReynaldoBy Peter BiddlecombeThis is the

UK equivalent of Amy Reynaldo's guide to the New York Times puzzle. Tackling British cryptic crosswords may seem a crazy idea, but with the help of this book they're within the grasp of anyone who enjoys American cryptics. The Times ones are harder, but for the same reason as the NY Times is much harder than our "concise" puzzles - it's a puzzle that experienced solvers tackle every day, so it needs difficulty to maintain interest. What follows is a slightly trimmed version of my review at UK. The product description should show you why Tim Moorey is well-qualified for the task. Like any "how to solve cryptics" book, an essential part is the coverage of the various clue types. Tim does this elegantly, listing 12 types and putting them in two groups - those which always include an indicator word, and those that don't (or don't always) do so. He's not scared to give some of the types names that differ from the norm, but these are all well-chosen - e.g. All-in-one to replace that rather dusty name "lit.". This section uses a consistent diagrammatic way of explaining the structure of clues, which is continued in the rest of the book. But the clue-types are dealt with in about 20 pages, and for many intended readers will just confirm what they already know - so good as this part is, it can't sell the book on its own. You then get over 100 pages of advice to help bridge the gap between understanding a list of clue-types and seeing how to solve clues. Some of this is general advice, which I must count as good, having said much the same to many people myself! Equally important is 40-odd pages on the "Finer points of clues", which shows you lots of the tricks that can make good clues so tricky to solve. At the end of the book are 120 practice clues, a short but interesting exercise in trying a bit of clue-writing yourself, and 12 practice puzzles, the first of which has the type and definition indicated for each clue. The solutions to these are all annotated, so that if you fail to finish a puzzle you're not just presented with a grid of inexplicable answers. As a treat at the end, you get one of the very best Times puzzles to try, with a couple of levels of "clue-hinting" provided if you need them, as this puzzle is difficult. The book pays a huge indirect compliment to setters and editors of the Times puzzles over the years - the clues used as examples are from the top drawer, showing you the entertainment in store when you solve the puzzle in future. If you're not particularly interested in the Times puzzle, but in solving broadsheet daily cryptic crosswords in general, this book is equal to any other currently available - and it's clear which information is specific to the Times puzzle. Declaring a small interest: I'm the organiser of the "Times for the Times" blog which Tim both recommends and quotes from in the book.

The Times Crossword is the best-known crossword in the world. Expert crossword solver and setter, Tim Moorey, dispels the misconception that cryptic crosswords are the preserve of the elite. In this accessible guide, he demonstrates that anyone who enjoys words and word play can learn to solve a cryptic crossword clue. In order to master The Times Crossword, Tim Moorey guides the beginner and intermediate solver through the following: What is a cryptic clue Each clue type in detail Tips to aid the solving process What to do when stuck Practice clues Solutions with clear explanations Why do The Times Crossword Facts about The Times Crossword Recommended websites and blogs This book reveals all you need to know about the enjoyable cerebral pastime of crossword-solving and how to decipher the most intricate of clues. Tim Moorey proves that you too can revel in the deep satisfaction that comes from finishing The Times Crossword.

About the Author Tim Moorey has been solving Times crosswords for the past 50 years, having begun in his early teens. His setting career started at an equally early age, when he submitted puzzles to the Evening News, who offered two guineas for each successful puzzle. His business career, as a financial controller and director of several BP subsidiary companies, allowed little time for more setting until 1991 when Tim joined The Sunday Times team. He now sets crosswords for the Mephisto and Owzat puzzles in various newspapers. In addition, he was the joint winner in the Observers monthly Azed clue-writing competitions for 2004/5. Tim also runs crossword workshops for beginners and, as the Cluru (the Clue Guru), provides help for puzzled puzzlers for the Crossword Club. When not puzzling or solving crosswords, Tim Moorey is an after-dinner speaker. He has also umpired cricket matches for the MCC.